

People's Church Partington, Manchester



Partington sits on the South West edge of Trafford, and is home to the People's Church, who have been established in the heart of community life for nearly 50 years now. The area was originally a small Cheshire village, but became home to an overspill estate in the 1960s, and a missionary pastor-come-builder was sent from 'The People's Church' in Everton. A congregation gathered and grew, and a church building was built from scratch by the minister along with other church members and local people with skills to contribute and a heart to get stuck in. Half a century later, the church is still very active in the community and in recent years has seen a growing number of people from the community engage with church life, including new Christians, and people re-discovering faith. Continuing the pioneering spirit that birthed the church, another recent development has been Eden Partington, a team of incarnational missionaries who have intentionally moved into the estate to be good news and live the life of faith as part of the church and community. Jonathan Boyers, the church's minister, shares the story...

"The Eden team have been part of the church for 18 months now, and have been a real blessing to both church life and to the community, offering a diverse range of activities that see us developing genuine relationships with the young people in the area, and their wider connections and families too. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, there's youth club and creative arts sessions for the young people, including tuition in drumming, vocals, street dance and rap. On top of this, the team hosts a toddler playdate, a regular midweek lunch club at the local high school, as well as detached youth work on Friday nights. The detached sessions are a real highlight for the team because you never know what young people you're going to meet, or what sort of conversations you'll have. Sometimes it's just building friendship, playing sport or whatever, and other times, the young people want to know why you believe what you believe.

We're delighted that the Eden team is part of the church. As a church we've done loads of one-off events to connect with the community, schools weeks, summer fun days, all sorts - but the Eden team give us genuine, ongoing and growing relationship with the young people of the area who would never usually step foot inside a church building. It also means our work with young people is happening through those whose primary calling and passion is working with young people, rather than people who are already overstretched and busy but 'just about willing to give up a bit more time'. It makes a real difference to what we're doing. Moving forward, we're looking to grow the team, see some new people get involved and become part of what's happening here, and continue to see members of the church and Eden team empowered to use their passions and expertise as ways of sharing the good news. We've established a church football team, addiction referral service, and community drop-in just through making space for church members to use their passions to connect with the community and we're keen to explore more of what this looks like...



"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. " John 1: 14 (the Message)



For your thoughts and prayers:

- What are your passions, and how could you use these to connect locally and share something of your faith?
- Are you interested in 'incarnational mission' and joining an Eden team somewhere. There are NWBA churches in Manchester and Merseyside looking to grow their Eden teams....